

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1610 with a release date of Friday, June 20th, 2008 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. Hams in the United States mid-West continue their storm relief efforts as hams in India get ready to face their yearly monsoons. Also, a T-Hunting ham prevents an unnecessary search and rescue operation and science comes up with the first self replicating machine. Well, almost. Find out the details on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1610 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

★★

RESCUE RADIO: THE RAIN KEEPS FALLING

The rain keep falling and the rivers keep rising in several mid-Western states and ham radio operators continue to volunteer their time to the relief effort. Amateur Radio Newsline's Jack Parker, W8ISH, joins us from Indianapolis, with more:

--

Flood waters that rushed through south central Indiana last week ruined or damaged thousands of homes, affecting the lives of their owners. Amateur Radio Operators from around the state continued to provide critical communications through the following week.

Fourty-two hams, many of them from surrounding counties, assisted in shelter operations in Columbus, Indiana and four other towns.

Bartholomew County was one of the hardest hit by the June floods. According to Noel Taylor N9CJT, the five day operation racked up nearly 15-hundred man hours in Amateur Radio Communications.

Further west, Amateurs in Terre Haute Indiana had problems of their own. Heavy rains dropped nearly a foot of water on Vigo county, pushing the Wabash River over its banks.

Newcomer Jerry Boling, KC60ND, had just become the ARES EC for Vigo County five days before the flood hit. He was working with a new county Emergency Management Director. Both had little experience coping with a major disaster:

..

KC60ND. "When all this took place I was very unprepared. I'm just very thankful I work with a great group of guys there in the Wabash Valley. And I'm gonna tell you something I've lived all over the countr. These guys in the Wabash Valley really have their stuff together."

..

Vigo county hams maintained an emergency net for four days.

Over in Johnson county Amateur Radio Operators were re-activated the following Friday when torrential rains once again flooded county roads. Local officials feared more homes would be flooded. Several buildings were damaged by high winds as the latest storm left its mark on the flooded landscape.

To date, a total of thirty Indiana counties have been declared disaster areas. Meanwhile, Emergency Management Officials across the Hoosier state are singing praises for the work Amateur Radio Operators have done.

Reporting from Indianapolis, this is Jack Parker W8ISH

--

Meantime the ARRL reports that hams have also been busy in Wisconsin where severe weather starting on June 9th, brought flooding to five counties. One of these county's called on ARES members to provide patrols of the flooded areas overnight on two consecutive nights. According to ARRL Wisconsin Section Emergency Coordinator Bill Niemuth, KB9EN0, approximately 90 ARES members responded to the call for assistance. (ARNewsline(tm))

★★

RESCUE RADIO: HAMS IN INDIA PRAISED IN PRINT

A number of newspapers in India are praising the initiative being taken by hams in the city of Mumbai. This, to be ready when the yearly rains start to fall. Robb Topp, VK5MM, of the WIA News reports:

--

Ham radio is regarded as the best back-up communication system during calamities says an item in the Indian press.

Abhijit Pant and other amateur Ham operators are taking part in a novel initiative they are using Ham radio as a rescue tool during the monsoon season in Mumbai this year

When telephone lines fail and mobile networks get jammed, voices crackling over the airwaves could save citizens caught in waterlogged areas.

When everything fails, we rise. This is a challenge and Ham Radio really works during crucial occasions. Ham radio is better than other means of communication, Abhijit said.

When they receive information about stranded people, mobile Ham stations and Ham operators relay information to a centralized control room which helps those in distress get access to emergency services.

I'm Rob, VK5MM.

--

One newspaper article summed it up this way. It says that it may have started as amateur radio, but with the skills involved, it's far from being just amateur. (WIA News)

★★

RESCUE RADIO: T-HUNT HAM PREVENTS UNNEDED AIR FORCE SEARCH

An unnamed Oregon ham radio operator is being credited with preventing the need for an expensive government search for an Emergency Locator Transmitter. One it turned out that was functioned on by mistake.

According tp KTVZ news, the ham was driving along Interstate5 near the city of Roseburg when he picked up an unusual signal. It turned out to be a beacon from an Emergency Locator Transmitter that was presumably in a downed aircraft.

Sergeant Dave Marshall of the Douglas County Sheriff's office says the ham operator happened to be a volunteer for the Amateur Radio Emergency Services. He used his T-hunt knowledge and followed the source of the signal to a hangar at the Roseburg Regional Airport.

The signal turned out to be coming from the wreckage of a home built plane that crashed on a Roseburg street May 26th. The 70-year-old pilot had amazingly walked away from the wreck. He had returned to the hanger where the remnants was being stored to show it some friends when one of them accidentally triggered the beacon.

As soon as the T-hunting ham showed up it was quickly turned off. If it hadn't been, the Air Force would have launched a search for the wreckage of a plane. (KTVZ.com)

★★

RESCUE RADIO: FLORIDA HAM HELPS IN RESCUE AT SEA

A Florida ham is being credited with helping to save those on-board a sailboat stranded in a raging storm.

Dorrain Sawyer, KB4UUA, of Bonifay, tells the N-W-F Daily News that she was recently monitoring the bands when a distress call came in. It was about 9:30 a.m in the morning when she learned that a vessel sailing off the coast of Costa Rica had run into stormy weather and its passengers were calling for help.

The vessel in trouble was the Stravaig, a 42-foot sailboat from Great Britain, was caught in 60-mph winds of what would become Tropical Storm Arthur. The Stravaig was low on fuel and had ripped sails when it began taking on water in its engine room.

Sawyer did not receive a call directly from the Stravaig. Rather the message was relayed to her from a nearby vessel. When she got it, she promptly called the Coast Guard. A lengthy rescue mission ensued and the Stravaig and its passengers finally reached shore at about 10 p.m.

Sawyer said that she spent about four hours on the phone with the Coast Guard, and it took them nearly 12 hours to bring the Stravaig to shore. Although Sawyer was the first to react to the Stravaig's call, she tells the on-line newspaper that she knows there were other radio operators listening and waiting to help. (NWF)

★★

RESCUE RADIO: SOUTH AFRICA ASSISTS CHINA IN SETTING UP RESCUE RADIO GROUP

Hams from South Africa are pitching in to help radio amateurs in China to form a rescue radio organization of their own. Following the recent earthquake in China, that nations ham community realized the value of having an organized amateur radio disaster communication organization and have turned to South Africa's Hamnet for help in forming it.

Hamnet is South Africa's equivalent of RACES in the United States. Its National Director, Francois Botha, ZS6BUU, has already has shared training manuals with Michael Chen, BD5RV, in Nanjing. Botha also provided Chen with details of how to structure a disaster management communication organization.

ZS6BUU says that it is gratifying that South Africa's Hamnet can be of assistance to a nation that has suffered so much in the past few months. (SARL, Southgate)

★★

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the W3BN repeater serving the city of Reading, Pennsylvania.

(5 sec pause here)

★★

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: PLEASE MONITOR THESE NEW BIRDS

The sponsor of a pair of cubesat satellites is inviting hams world-wide to help monitor the tiny birds once they are on-orbit. Students at Santa Clara University are asking radio amateurs to listen out for the beacon signals from PreSat and NanoSail-D which are scheduled to launch on June 23rd from the Reagan Test Site in the Marshall Islands.

Both spacecraft are scheduled to go into Low Earth Orbit as secondary payloads aboard a SpaceX Falcon-1 launch vehicle. PreSat's mission will be to evaluate the performance of a generic biofluidic sample management and handling system for future advanced in situ space-borne biology experiments. It will operate on 437.318 MHz FM, will send an AX.25 packet every 5 seconds.

The NanoSail-D spacecraft will deploy a solar sail that also will be used as a drag sail. This, to demonstrate orbital debris mitigation technology. Its signal will be on 437.269 MHz FM, sending an AX.25 packet every 10 seconds. In both cases hams on the ground are asked to submit received beacon packets through the mission websites in order to receive a web-based QSL card.

The URL's for each bird is: PreSat - <http://www.presat.org>, NanoSail-D - <http://www.nanosaild.org> (KE7EGC)

★★

HAM HAPPENINGS: ARRL FIELD DAY JUNE 28 AND 29

ARRL Field Day takes place June 28 and 29 and this year record level participation is anticipated.

Field Day is the ARRL's flagship operating event that's held each year on fourth full weekend in June. Field Day brings together newcomers and experienced hams for 24 hours of operating fun while at the same time demonstrating that hams can go anywhere to instantaneously, set up their gear, and provide emergency communications.

One big rules change for Field Day 2008 is that the former Demonstration Mode Bonus category has been eliminated. Its been replaced by an Educational Activity Bonus worth 100 points. This new bonus is intended to encourage clubs and groups to do some more formal educational activity during their Field Day operation. If you have any questions concerning what activities might be appropriate for this bonus, please send an e-mail to ARRL Field Day Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND and he will get back to you with some ideas.

A complete Field Day Packet can be downloaded from the ARRL Web site. You will find it in cyberspace at www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2008/fd.html (ARRL)

★★

HAM HAPPENINGS: ANNOUNCING D-STAR FIELD DAY

If you or your club is planning on participating in this years ARRL Field Day this year, then think about also setting up a D-STAR Field Day station and participating in a parallel event just announced called D-STAR Field Day. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, is in the studio with more:

--

This year D-Star Field Day runs June 28th and 29th which is the same as the long traditional ARRL sponsored Field Day operating event.

According to Ed Woodrick, WA4YIH, posting on a D-Star remailer, the rules for D-STAR Field Day are similar to those of the ARRL Field Day. This, in that the event is to demonstrate ham radio communications capabilities to others including public officials. Only instead of traditional analog

operation you use digital D-Star equipment.

Setting up a D-STAR Field Day Station doesn't take much. Ed says that a handheld and a log book may be all that is required. Or go all out and setup a a complete voice, low speed data, and high speed data station.

One big change. Since D-Star Field Day is not associated with the ARRL sponsored Field Day, and because most D-Star contacts will likely be made using repeaters, those contacts will not count toward your ARRL Field Day score. This is because the ARRL does not permit repeater use during Field Day while the sponsors of D-Star Field Day do.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, in Los Angeles.

--

D-Star Field Day comes to you courtesy of the Georgia D-Star group. More information and complete rules are on the web at www.dstarinfo.com/news/DSTAR_Field_Day.html (WB9QZB)

★★

EMERGING HAM TECHNOLOGY: ANNOUNCING D-STAR SSTV

And still with the world of D-Star, John Brown, GM7HHB, in Kirknewton, Scotland, has reportedly written a program to send Slow Scan TV type images or webcam captures over the digital data stream over D-STAR radios. The application called D-Star TV runs on Microsoft Windows XP or Vista and requires at least one serial port.

D-Star TV is in its initial testing stage so it has a few bugs. Also, there are some features that still to be implemented. That said, D-Star TV reported to be workable and you can download it free of charge at www.dstartv.com

Oh yes. Its strongly suggested that you read the Frequently Asked Questions or FAQ file before using the program. Its also a free download at www.dstartv.com/faq.htm (QRZ.com)

★★

MALICIOUS INTERFERENCE: THE FIREDRAKE IS BACK ON 20 METERS

The so-called Firedrake intruder is back on 20 meter. ARRL Field and Regulatory Correspondent Chuck Skolaut, K0BOG, says that he has received reports from Intruder Watch monitors in Texas, Montana, West Virginia, Massachusetts, Colorado, Washington, Nevada and Pennsylvania hearing the mainland-China based jammer on 14.010 and 14.070 MHz. Hams in IARU Region 1 have heard the jammer on 14.000, 14.005, 14.010, 14.030, 14.050, 14.050 and 14.090 MHz.

According to one Region 1 monitor, the jammer originates from Chinese government transmitters in an attempt to block out the Sound of Hope short wave broadcasts. Skolaut said he heard it on 14.070 at 1500 Eastern time on June 6th from ARRL HQ.

The FCC's High Frequency Direction Finding facility in Columbia, Maryland. also has heard the Firedrake jammer. It has sent a harmful interference report to the Chinese government but has no authority to make intruder stations outside the US to stop transmitting on Amateur Radio frequencies. Such situations typically are dealt with through diplomatic channels. The last time the Firedrake jammer was heard in the ham bands was about two years ago. (ARRL)

★★

RADIO EDUCATION: MOTOROLA AND MART TEAM UP TO TEACH HAM RADIO

Motorola and the Malaysian Amateur Radio Transmitters' Society are establishing a network of school amateur radio clubs in Malaysia. This, to instill interest in communications technology and innovation among students.

Motorola Technology managing director Yew Tian Tek said that funds would be invested to equip 40 schools with two-way radio equipment consisting of a base station, and three portable. He said the first school amateur radio club would start in July, adding that equipment would be installed in other schools by the end of the year.

Yew said such clubs would expose the students to amateur radio which could encourage them to explore the technology further. The radio club network involving 40 schools nationwide will also serve as response teams in emergencies or disasters. (IZ8FTW)

★★

HAM HAPPENINGS: HAMVENTION PLEDGES NO MORE FLEA MARKET WAITING LINES

The outgoing president of the Dayton Amateur Radio Association says that that this years one big problem at the Hamvention will be solved long before next years event. That being the extrodinarilly long waiting times for sellers to get into the Flea Market area.

Writing in the clubs newsletter, Jim Simpson, WB8QZZ, acknowledged that there were more than a few disgruntled Flea Market participants. This, after a computer glitch managed to make for long waiting lines for Flea Market vendor to getting in to set up shop.

Simpson say that several changes will be made to system over the summer months. He says that October 1st is the groups deadline to have all sales and data collection tools on line, checked out and ready for use.

WB8QZZ says that this must get done in a timely manner and a team of information technology proficient individuals has been selected for this process. (DARA RF Carrier)

★★

HAM HAPPENINGS: HAM RADIO 2008 IN GERMANY

The countdown has begun for HAM RADIO 2008. That's Europe's answer to the Dayton Hamvention that has taken place for the past 33 years at Lake Constance near Friedrichshafen, in Germany. .

This years dates are June 27th to the 29th and the main focus of HAM RADIO 2008 is Amateur Radio and the Satellites.

There will also be a special programs for youngsters. Arrangements have been made for tomorrow's hams can participate in the gathering where 17 different stations will permit participants to experience the excitement of Amateur Radio on their own. Also, a special training course for school teachers will focus on Amateur Radio projects in school.

Last year's HAM RADIO had over 18,000 visitors, and 500 exhibitors from over 30 countries. (Southgate)

★★

ON THE WEB: PICKMYRIG.COM

U-K hams M3PHP and M-Zero-TZ0 have launched their newest site called PickMyRig.com. This is a simple cyberspace location where you input a few details you wish to have on a new radio and PickMyRig.com will display matching ham radio gear for you.

PickMyRig.com is from the team who brought you Hamtests.co.uk and HamRadioForum.net. M0TZ0 says that the new site is still in its earliest incarnation but it is ready for use. Again the U-R-L is www.ickMyRig.com (M0TZ0)

★★

HAM RADIO MARKETPLACE: FIRST SDR TRANSCEIVER FROM INDIA

The first software defined all mode transceiver covering H-F and 6 meters from India has been brought to the ham radio marketplace. Priced at \$599 in U.S. dollars, the transceiver from WonderRadio appears to be a kit based on an article from QEX Magazine titled "A Software Defined Radio for the Masses." More information is on-line at sdrtec.com. (Southgate)

★★

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newslne with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewslne.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

★★

CHANGING OF THE GUARD: HOWARD SHEPHERD, W6US - SK

Its with the deepest sympathy that we report the passing of former ARRL Southwestern Division Director Howard Shepherd, W-6-U-S.

Shepherd served as Southwestern Division Director from 1965 through 1967, when he held the callsign W6QJW.. He was a record-setting contester, an Elmer to countless up-and-coming young hams and a volunteer leader. In his professional capacity as an attorney he was an adviser on antenna zoning issues and club incorporations.

Howard Shepherd, W6US, died on Friday, June 13th. Services were scheduled for Saturday, June 21st at the Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church in Los Alamitos, California. (ARRL Southwestern Division News)

★★

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: NEW MODEL VoIP CALLING LAUNCHED

German telephone company Deutsche Telekom AG, the parent of T-Mobile, says that it has invested in Jajah, an upstart firm that lets customers bypass long-distance fees by connecting their calls over the Internet.

Founded in Austria in 2005, Jajah has emerged as the third model of Internet calling, also known as Voice over Internet Protocol, or VoIP. Users go to the company's Web site and enter two phone numbers -- their own and the number they want to call. The company calls both numbers. If the calls are answered, Jajah connects them. Calls are free between Jajah users in many countries. Other calls cost about 3 cents a minute.

Most VoIP businesses, like Skype service and Vonage generally don't involve the user's wired or wireless phone. Instead they rely on a broadband connection to carry the call to the outside world.

So far Jajah has more than 2 million registered users around the world with 40 percent in the United States.. The company is headquartered to Mountain View, California. (Press release)

★★

PROPAGATION: SUNSPOTS ARE UNSPOTS

Mr. Sun is going longer than normal without producing sunspots. So say those attending the International Solar Conference held at Montana State University from 1st to the 6th of June.

About 100 scientists from around the world attended the conference to talk about Solar Variability, Earth's Climate and the Space Environment. According to an article on the event by the Montana State Univeristy news service, scientists say periods of inactivity are normal for the sun, but this period has gone on a lot longer than usual.

You can read the full article at www.montana.edu/cpa/news/nwview.php?articleY82 (University News Services)

★★

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: UK TO LAUNCH STUDENT CUBESAT

In ham radio space related news, students at Leicester University in the U-K have begun a project to design, build and launch a satellite into space. Twenty undergraduates in the department of physics and astronomy are involved in the mission to detect space dust. The main body of the satellite was donated this week by an engineering company based in Loughborough. G7HIA and G0SFJ are the amateur radio mentors to this satellite project. You can read the full BBC News story at: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/leicestershire/7453497.stm> (Southgate)

★★

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: AO-16 MALFUNCTION UPDATE

AMSAT-North America Vice-President of Operations Drew Glasbrenner, K04MA, says that the AO-16 ham satellites on-going malfunctions continue. According to Glasbrenner, AO-16 continues to spontaneously shut off and controllers suspect it is a watchdog timer that is not operating properly. Also that the problem is temperature related.

The resets on the satellite began shortly after the satellite re-entered periods of eclipses after a long period of full sun. Both Glasbrenner and Mark Hammond, N8MH, have, at various times, have re-commanded the bird on. It will remain operational for anywhere from just a few seconds to a few minutes before shutting down. They also have experimented with doing the reset operation automatically, but with not much success.

The current plan is to wait a little bit until the eclipses start getting shorter. At that point in time the overall temperature of the satellite rises some, and controllers will then see if the frequency of the resets goes down enough to make some sort of day-to-day operation of the aging bird feasible once again. (ANS)

★★

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: AMSAT SPACE SYMPOSIUM CALLS FOR PAPERS

This is the first call for papers has gone out for the 2008 AMSAT Space Symposium and Annual Meeting. This year's dates are October 24th to the 26th in Atlanta, Georgia. Proposals for papers, symposium presentations, and poster presentations are invited on any topic of interest to the amateur satellite program.

An emphasis for this year is an educational outreach to middle and high school students. Another topic of interest is using amateur satellite tracking systems to monitor deep space network objects.

Camera ready copy on paper or in electronic form will be due by September 1st for inclusion in the printed symposium proceedings. Papers received after this date may not be included in the printed proceedings.

A one-page abstract as soon as possible. Abstracts and papers should be sent to n8fgv@amsat.org (AMSAT, AA4RC)

★★

ON THE AIR: THE HOLYLAND IN OCTOBER

Hal Turley, W8HC, and Jerry Fish, K8OQL, have announced plans to return to Israel in October for another CQ World Wide Phone Contest from the Holyland. In commemoration of Israel's 60th Anniversary in 2008, the two have been granted permission to operate as 4X0C as a special event and contest station from atop Israel's historical Masada National Park.

Hal and Jerry will be hosted and joined by Ruben Alon, 4Z5FI, for their Multi operator Single station operation during the contest. Direct QSLs to W8HC or via the buro. All 4X0C QSO's will also be uploaded to the ARRL's Logbook to the World and Hal will QSL 100% via GlobalQSL.com.

For those not aware, Masada was built during the years 37 to 31 BC by Herod the Great. It served as a nearly impenetrable stone fortress and palace.

The site is located in the remote Judean desert and is situated on a table-top plateau rising nearly 450 meters. However Masada's actual elevation is near-sea level since the Dead Sea below it is over 400 meters below sea level.

Additional information can be found at www.w8hc.com. (W8HC)

★★

DX

In D-X, a team of operators will use the special callsign 7Y46ND from Algeria during the month of July. They plan to operate from the city of Djelfa on 80 through 10 meters. QSL via 7X2DD

The Hungarian Traveling Amateur Radio Team will be active from Liechtenstein between June 23rd to the 29th. Operators are HA0HW, HA4DX and HG4GBE all operating portable H-B-Zero on 40 through 6 meters using CW, SSB, and maybe some digital modes. QSL via the HA Bureau or direct via each operator's QRZ.com address.

DL4AO will be active portable Oh Zed from Bornholm Island until June 26th. He will operate in his early morning and late afternoon hours, mostly on 20 meters. He will also operate on 6 meters using CW and SSB. All of the QSOs will be confirmed automatically via the bureau.

The Spanish operation from East Timor continues through the 24th of April signing 4W6R. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via EA4URE.

Lastly, DK7LX will be operating portable FH from Mayotte will be operational until June 23rd of. Activity is holiday style on the H- F bands using mainly CW. QSL direct to DK7LX as his callbook address.

(Above from various DX news sources)

★★

THAT FINAL ITEM: MACHINES THAT MAKE MORE MACHINES

And finally this week, as biologists are busy working on cloning living organisms, engineers are similarly at work on a mechanical counterpart. That being to create non-living things that can replicate themselves. And now they have built one. Well, kind of. John Williams, VK5BUI, of the WIA News says that they are at least on their way:

--

New Scientist have reported how more than 100 researchers from around the world have been working on a project called Rep-Rap or Replicating Rapid Prototyper.

Rep-Rap the world's first 3D printer can print pieces which can be assembled by hand to make an exact copy of the original printer. The replica is no mule, either - it can also print another copy of itself.

So far, Rep-Rap can only reproduce its plastic parts, and not its metal or electronics. It takes a human a few hours to assemble the copied pieces into another printer.

Besides replicating itself, it can also print plastic 3D objects including coat hooks, water-filter insects, children's sandals, and much more.

People already "run their own CD burners, printing presses and photographic laboratories", said Adrian Bowyer, the University of Bath mechanical engineer who launched the RepRap project. "There's no reason they shouldn't run their own factories as well."

Now if only Rep-Rap could replicate my voice when I get the croaks!!

I'm John VK5BUI bui bui bui bui

--

Don't look for self replicating machines to replace humans in all aspects of manufacturing very soon. While scientists have succeeded in the area of small simple plastic parts, self replicating completed devices is likely a long, long ways away. (WIA News)

**

NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's WIA News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) is Copyright 2008. All rights reserved.